

LEIGH HERRICK

## child of the

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child of the missing limb    the heart of  
 of the world now missing    the child  
 of the missing garden    the roots of the child  
 now missing the child of the river  
 running  
 the child of the river    broken into sides  
 into banks    into nightmares the child cannot  
 climb

who says  
       *now i can't sleep    i try to forget*  
       *i have such difficulty feeling anymore*

who is the child of misvisions    who knows  
 bombs among spring flowers    who is the powerless  
 child of wishes    of fathers    of mothers  
 of wanting warm-and-safe-at-home    not  
 the child of the burning cloud    not  
 the child of mistrials or freely the large stone  
 flung one afternoon when thought was simple and  
 looking up there was only blue    no    no stone

nothing thrown or born into the heart of the child  
 who forgot the sound of laughter  
 who remembers friends  
 who says which live  
       which are dead  
 who says  
       *i am speaking to you    will the waiting be long?*

*Italicized lines are from a 1993 UNICEF publication, IDream of Peace: Images of War by the Children of Former Yugoslavia, and are used with permission.*